



12 May, 2016

Chair and Members
Corporate Services Committee

RE: Executive Summary of the Ontario Good Road Association Board of Directors Meeting – Toronto, ON, April 21-22, 2016

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The new OGRA Board of Directors met for the first time since the conference on April 21 and 22, 2016 in Toronto. In addition to receiving the usual investment, financial and update reports the Board dealt with a number of other important issues.

Unfortunately OGRA was not successful in our latest attempt to get intervenor status in a case challenging the validity of the Minimum Maintenance Standards. OGRA applied for intervenor status in the case of Floud v City of Quinte West. At the heart of the case was motor vehicle accident that occurred in the winter of 2015. Once again the municipality was being sued for allegedly not maintaining their roads during a winter event. It is becoming more common for plaintiffs to file suit challenging the legal status of the MMS regulations. It was for this reason that OGRA intervened in the Silveira action and why we sought intervenor status in this case.

For reasons that we cannot understand the Judge ruled against our request. After due consideration OGRA has decided not to appeal the decision. We will however, continue to follow this case to its conclusion and will continue to fight any future challenges to these important regulations. OGRA will post the Judge's decision when we receive it.

The Board directed staff to proceed with setting up a For Profit Division of OGRA. The rationale behind this action is that OGRA is deriving more and more revenue each year from sources that could be determined by the CRA as not in keeping with the primary reason for the Association's existence. If that were to happen, OGRA could lose its Not-For-Profit status and expose all our revenue to tax. Staff will be looking at how to set up the new entity with minimal impact to OGRA's member services.

The Board received two excellent presentations from Paul Johnson, Operations Manager, County of Wellington and OGRA Past President. Paul updated the Board on the activities of the Ontario Road Salt Management Group and reported on last year's Snow School. Among his many hats Paul currently sits as Snow School Director.

In other business the Board appointed Luc Duval to the seat currently vacant on the Certification Advisory Board of the Academy for Municipal Asset Management. This Board oversees the Academy program and sets the criteria for accreditation.

The Board was advised that the Minimum Maintenance Standards Review Task Force continues to meet and will hopefully conclude their review shortly. Once complete, the recommendations will be sent to the Minister of Transportation. It is hoped that any new regulations will be out in time for the 2017 conference.

The Board recognizes that the era of Autonomous Vehicles is fast approaching and to that end, they have directed staff to spearhead the creation of an Autonomous Vehicles Working Group. OGRA will be developing a terms of reference for the group and will proceed to solicit members. Anyone interested can email Fahad Shuja, OGRA Member Services/OPS Coordinator at fahad@ogra.org. The Winter Web APP 2.0 has concluded its beta testing and is ready to go live. The app will be offered at no cost to OGRA members and will also be marketed across Canada and the United States.

OGRA's flagship course, Guelph Road School has set record attendance for the 4th year in a row. 908 students and OGRA's small army of volunteer instructors will descend upon the University of Guelph campus the first week of May. OGRA would like to thank our members for supporting our education program and especially thank our volunteers for the hours of preparation, attending meetings and their dedication to teaching their fellow roads professionals.

The Board was advised that www.ogra.org is going to undergo a significant redesign this year. OGRA has solicited comments from our members and is busy working on designing the website which will leverage the latest in web technology, search features and accessibility.

On the Policy front the Board agreed to work with a coalition of groups that include MEA and RCCAO to propose a review of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment. Just about everyone agrees that the MCEA process needs to be modified to lower costs and speed up the development process.

OGRA staff has been participating on several working groups and task forces including the Northern Ontario Multimodal Transportation Strategy, the Management of Excess Soils from Construction Projects, the Minister's Cycling Working Group and the Asset Management Planning Regulations Consultation. OGRA is also starting work on our next Advocacy Day at Queen's Park and will be developing a set of issues to run past the Board.

The Board received the report on the 2016 OGRA/ROMA Combined Conference which was a resounding success. The delegate survey provided some great feedback on ways that OGRA can improve the 2017 conference.

Any questions regarding the Board highlights should be directed to Joe Tiernay, Executive Director, joe@ogra.org

Respectfully submitted by:



Virginia Ridley
Councillor, Ward 10
OGRA Board Member

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall review governance, financial and personnel issues and report on same to the Board of Directors.

Membership:

- President
- First and Second Vice-Presidents
- Immediate Past President
- One Director elected at the first meeting of the Board of Directors following the annual general meeting

ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE:

1. The investment summary as of March 31, 2016 was received for information.
2. The balance sheet and financial statements as of March 31, 2016 was received for information.
3. The report on IT Hardware Upgrades – Unbudgeted was received for information.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD:

1. That staff proceed with establishing an OGRA For-Profit Division to include a review of potential insurance and liability issues.
2. That Ken Lauppé's report on Board Composition/Roles be referred to staff and the Executive Committee for review and possible recommendations back to the Board.
3. That OGRA not appeal the ruling in the Flout v. City of Quinte West law suit and that OGRA agree to pay costs in the amount of \$9,000 as directed by the Court.
4. That OGRA advise ROMA that OGRA declines the request to look at relocating the Combined Conference, and further that OGRA is prepared to discuss other options to increase ROMA's revenue.

POLICY COMMITTEE

The Policy Committee shall provide the Board of Directors with policy advice on a wide range of municipal transportation issues.

The committee shall:

- review relevant policy proposals and government legislation and develop a response where appropriate.
- initiate policy reports for submission to the Board of Directors.
- develop timely recommendations to the Board of Directors on emerging issues.
- identify issues of interest to the membership and recommend appropriate action by the Board of Directors.
- act as the Resolutions Committee and develop recommendations to the Board of Directors.

ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE:

1. The Committee received a report from Frank Zechner on the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process.
2. The Committee received a report from Scott Butler, Manager of Policy & Research on the Three-Year Advocacy Strategy.
3. The Committee received a report on Asset Management Planning Regulation Consultation.
4. The Committee received an update from MTO.
5. The Committee reviewed for information an update on policy issues for the period January 5, 2016 to April 8, 2016

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD:

1. That OGRA join the coalition of organizations calling on the government to undertake a review of the Municipal Class EA process under Part IV (Section 61) of the Environmental Bill of Rights Act, 1993 (EBR Act).
2. That OGRA reach out to the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario and the Municipal Engineers Association to determine what other support OGRA can lend to this advocacy effort
3. That OGRA reach out to other organizations to develop common objectives for the MCEA review such as but not limited to:
 - a. Faster turn-around time
 - b. Expansion of the list of exemptions for routine municipal projects
4. That OGRA continue to monitor the status of the Northern Ontario Multimodal Transportation Strategy and provide commentary when necessary.
5. That OGRA write to the minister of Environment and Climate Change encouraging the Ministry proceed with the four immediate action items identified in the Industry Excess Construction Soils Steering Committee's EBR submission and that the Minister be requested to respond no later than January 1, 2017.
6. That OGRA work with the stakeholders that are members of the Minister's Cycling Working Group to advocate for a long term funding commitment to build municipally-owned cycling focused assets and that these assets be funded as part of the Moving Ontario Forward infrastructure plan.
7. That staff compile a set of issues for OGRA's Advocacy Day and circulate to the Board for feedback and prioritization

MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Member Services Committee shall provide the Board of Directors with recommendations on a wide range of member services including education and training programs, infrastructure management services, information services and marketing/communications initiatives.

The committee shall:

- Provide recommendations to the Board of Directors on new education and training programs
- Pursue partnerships with contractor and supplier associations, professional associations, and educational institutions, wherever appropriate
- Provides representation and input into the development of standards, policies and procedures regarding municipal transportation and public works
- Provides recommendations on marketing/communications initiatives to the Board of Directors

ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE:

1. The Committee received a presentation by Paul Johnson on the activities of the Ontario Road Salt Management Group.
2. The Committee received a presentation by Paul Johnson on the 2015 Snow School.
3. The Committee received an update report on Municipal DataWorks by John Tarantino.
4. The Technical Services, Performance Measurements, Best Practices, Asset Management, Standards and Infrastructure Service Update report for the period January 4, 2016 to April 8, 2016 was received for information.
5. The Web-based Services Update report for the period January 4, 2016 to April 8, 2016 was received for information.
6. The Communications and Marketing Update report for the period ending April 8, 2016 was received for information.
7. The Education and Training Update report for the period January 5, 2016 to April 5, 2016 was received for information.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD:

1. That Luc Duval be appointed to the Certification Advisory Board of the Academy for Municipal Asset Management.
2. That the C.S. Anderson Road School Roles and Responsibilities be approved.
3. That OGRA spearhead the creation of a working group on Autonomous Vehicles.

ADDITION TO EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Councillor Ridley brought forward the following motion and it was supported by the Board:

It is recommended that OGRA work with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and other relevant municipal organizations to:

- a) Highlight the unique challenges and opportunities faced by Ontario municipalities to the attention of the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities as part of the Government of Canada's consultations on Phase 2 of the infrastructure plan; and,
- b) Communicate these challenges and opportunities proactively with the Province of Ontario concurrently to ensure the views of the municipal sector are represented in the bilateral consultations between the Governments of Canada and Ontario.